

RAKKASAN REPORT

13 May 2005



The official publication of the 3rd Brigade Combat Team

Volume 1 Issue 6

Rakkasans Assault Through the Night

By Pfc. Matt Wrzesinski
3rd BCT Public Affairs

You can hear the blades of the helicopter spin overhead as the cold

wind hits your face. Twenty three other Soldiers sit around you as you head to your destination. Although nervous about the ride, the real trip

doesn't begin until you hit the ground. The second the bird lands, you rush off not knowing what lies before you. You sprint to the first building you see as bullets zip past you. Now that you're in, you need to collect yourself as you clear each building not knowing where the enemy is hiding. Although most people will never encounter this scenario, Soldiers

need to train for it since they could be one of the chosen few. Rakkasans of 1st Battalion, 187th Infantry Regiment conducted an air assault raid in Milan, Tennessee, April 26.

The purpose of the training was to give Soldiers a taste of the obstacles they will face while deployed.

According to Capt. Adam Lackey, commander, Alpha Company 1/187, the air assault mission was comprised to be as realistic as possible.

The battalion was given 24 hours notice to plan for the mission.

The Soldiers were told they would



Photo by Pfc. Matt Wrzesinski

An MH-47 flies overhead as Soldiers of 1st Battalion wait to board and head to their destination.

See Assault Page 2

Contents

Page 1 Air Assault/ Rak 7 Notes

Page 2 Air Assault cont.

Page 3 Convoy Training

Page 4 Safety/ Cultural Awareness

Page 5 Change of Commands

Page 6 Around the Brigade/Chaplains Corner

Page 7 187 History

RAK 6 Notes

There are two very special events for our Regiment coming up in the next ten days, and I want every member of the Rakkasan family to understand how important these are. On Monday, 23 May, we will honor our fallen Brothers during a Memorial Ceremony at the Rakkasan Pylon near the museum. Soldiers from the 3rd Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry—men who fought as part of Task Force Rakkasan in Afghanistan—along with family members of those killed in action in 2002—will attend the event. I cannot emphasize how important it is that we honor the sacrifice of these brave troopers. The next day, we will honor 20 active duty and retired Rakkasans as Distinguished Members of the Regiment in a ceremony at the Rakkasan Pylon. I encourage every Soldier and family member to attend these events—there's no unit in the Army with the heritage and storied history of the Rakkasans, and this is the time to reflect on that legacy as we prepare to add to it in Iraq later this year.

These ceremonies are occurring in conjunction with the Week of the Eagles activities. It should be clear to every Rakkasan by now what my expectations are: we WILL dominate our opponents in these competitions, especially the boxing and Soldier Stakes events. Rakkasans do not quit and we never accept defeat—if you start falling into Category 2, remember who and what you are. I'm proud of every Soldier and leader who has volunteered to represent our Regiment.

After we finish the Week of the Eagles, we'll get right back into our training for combat. Time is the only resource we cannot replace, and it is imperative that leaders at every level maximize the training day to get your Soldiers ready to fight.

RAKKASAN!

Assault

air assault to a town. Their objective was to infiltrate the town and recover a high value target that was said to be located in the town. The resistance that was going to be met was unknown to the Soldiers.

At 2000 hrs four MH-47's took off from Fort Campbell carrying 84 Soldiers including a twelve man Special Forces detachment.

At approximately 2100 hours the troops rushed the town and were immediately welcomed by enemy fire.

The troops landed in two different landing zones surrounding the town to overwhelm the enemy.

Once on the ground, the Soldiers realized their target was no longer at the site; the target had left the objective in a vehicle right before

the Soldiers touched down. The Special Forces team along with troops from 1st Battalion took off from the site and caught the target three miles away from the objective. Again the Soldiers were met by fire. The Soldiers killed two of the enemy and captured the target along with important documents and computers. After the target was apprehended the Soldiers headed back to help the clear the town of insurgents.

The rest of the Soldiers set up a perimeter around the town and bounded from building to building clearing each one.

While securing the town, the Soldiers killed thirteen of the enemy and captured seven. They also found another high value target that they didn't know was there along with a weapons cache.

The Soldiers successfully secured the objective without taking any casualties.

The mission was a success and all training objectives were met.

"Our focus was for the Soldiers to be able to conduct their battle drills on a squad level," said Lackey, "We also wanted to build on the synchronization between the squads."

The Soldiers agreed that this type of train-



Photo by Pfc. Matt Wrzesinski
Sgt. Kyle Mayfield, A Co. 1/187, checks an enemy for weapons as two other Soldiers cover him.

ing is realistic and will gear them up for what they will encounter in Iraq.

"This training will ease the tension that the Soldiers will feel when they actually do this type of mission," said Sgt. Justin Hannah, A Co. 1/187.

Even the time given to prepare for this mission was close to what will be encountered while deployed.

"While we are deployed we will have limited time to prepare for our mission," said Sgt. Kyle Mayfield, A Co 1/187, "This mission showed we can conduct our mission successfully without much prep time."

As a Soldier, you need to be ready at all times despite unfavorable circumstances. Fear and anxiety need to be thrown out the window when it is time to complete the mission.

"No one will ask you if you're ready," said Lackey, "As a Soldier you need to be able to do your job no matter what the conditions are."

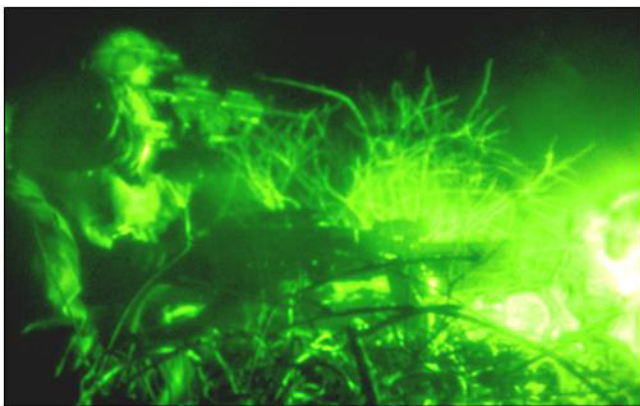


Photo by Pfc. Matt Wrzesinski
A support by fire team covers fellow Soldiers as they conduct a cordon and search in the buildings below during the Air Assault mission April 26.

3rd BCT Public Affairs Staff

The Rakkasan Report is an official publication of the 3rd Brigade Combat Team. It is published monthly by the 3rd BCT Public Affairs Office. Contents of the Rakkasan Report are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the US Government, Department of Defense, Department of the Army, or Fort Campbell, Ky. We welcome the submission of news items, articles, and photographs. Submissions should be made to the 3rd BCT Public Affairs Office, Bldg. 6760 A Shaw Valley Rd., Ft. Campbell. Items may be telephoned to (270) 798-6542 or emailed to jesse.riggin@campbell.army.mil.

BRIGADE COMBAT TEAM COMMANDER.....COL Michael Steele
PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER.....MAJ Tom Bryant
PUBLIC AFFAIRS NCOIC.....SSGT Jesse Riggin
PRINT JOURNALIST.....PFC Matt Wrzesinski
BROADCAST JOURNALIST.....PFC Kenia Kraus

Live Fire Convoy



Photos By Pfc. Matt Wrzesinski



Soldiers of C Company, 2nd Battalion 187th Infantry Regiment conducted live fire convoy training April 28 at Range 54.

The Soldiers practiced how to react to fire while mounted and dismounted.

They also called for mortar fire along with reacting to IED's. The purpose was to familiarize Soldiers with the obstacles they will face while deployed.



How Can You Prevent an Accident From Occurring?

Accidents occur for many reasons. In most commands, leaders tend to look for "things" to blame when an accident happens, because it's easier than looking for "root causes," such as those listed below. Consider the underlying accident causes described. Have you been guilty of any of these attitudes or behaviors? If so, you may have not been injured - but next time you may not be so lucky.

Taking Shortcuts: Short cuts that reduce your safety on the job are not shortcuts, but an increased chance for injury.

Being Over Confident: "It'll never happen to me" is an attitude that can lead to improper procedures, tools, or methods in your work. Any of these can lead to an injury.

Starting A Task With Incomplete Instructions: Don't be shy about asking for explanations about work procedures and safety precautions. It isn't disrespectful



or dumb to ask questions; it's stupid not to.

Poor Housekeeping: Poor housekeeping creates hazards of all types. A well maintained area sets a standard for others to follow. Good housekeeping involves both pride and safety.

Ignoring Safety Procedures: Purposely failing to observe safety procedures can endanger everyone.

Mental Distractions From Work: Dropping your 'mental' guard can pull your focus away from safe work procedures.

Failure To Pre-Plan The Mission: Being hasty in starting a task or not thinking through the process can put you in harms way. In training, there is time for deliberate planning prior to execution of a mission.

Article By Ralph A. Stuck

3rd BCT Safety Specialist / 798 7006

CULTURAL AWARENESS

Many Arabs and Muslims speak or at least sometimes use the Arabic language. Additionally, their names are often some form of Arabic. A common language assists in understanding their names. Understanding the naming methods for many Arabs and Muslims should result in an increased ability to identify certain Arabs and/or Muslims in the media or elsewhere.

Many given names for Arabs and/or Muslims generally follow a certain name order, consisting of two to three parts. The first part is the personal name that the par-

ents give the child. The second part is often the name of the child's grandfather.

Child's Given Name + Grandfather's Name [Hassan Muhammad]

Child's Given Name + Father's Name + Grandfather's Name [Hassan Muhammad Muhammad]

It is often considered socially unacceptable to use the first name of an elder or parent. Additionally, people are often called by what might be called acquired names, or names other than the given name, grandfather's name, or father's name.

One custom is to add a "pedigree" to denote that the extended family or the patriarch of the family was/is wealthy, famous, and prestigious. To indicate that a man is a member or extended son of this family, the word for son - Bin or Ibn - immediately precedes the famous family name.

Given Name + Son of + Extended (prestigious) Family Name [Usama Bin Laden]

Another custom is being called by the

name of the father. This is called a kunya, and considered to be an honorific name. This indicates a person as the father of or mother of a certain person (usually the eldest son). The word for father is Abu.

Father of + First name of eldest son [Abu Musab]

Some people are further identified by their place of residence or place of birth.

Father of + First name of eldest son + place of birth [Abu Musab al Zarqawi]

He is from the village Zarqaw in Jordan. The "i" at the end indicates that it is an adjective, noting a geographic addition to the description or identity.

This is only one tool for attempting to identify people in the Islamic and Arab world. They are not "written in stone." Exposure to the Arabic language, to Arab and Islamic cultures is the key to understanding.

Article By MAJ Michael Clarke

Info Ops Coordinator S-3 Plans Chief
3 BCT (270) 798 4842



New Leaders Join The Ranks of The Rakkasans



Photo By Pfc. Matt Wrzesinski

Lt. Col. Randy George (center) oversees as Capt. Troy J. Beattie (left) relinquished command of Delta Company, 1st Battalion, 187th Infantry Regiment, to Capt. Neil J. Myres (right) April 29. Beattie started his stint with the Rakkasans as A Brigade Battle Captain and moved on to become the Brigade Assistant S-3. Beattie then took command of Delta Company on 16 April, 2004. Beattie leaves the company in the hands of an established officer. Myres previous assignments include Rifle Platoon Leader, Mortar Platoon leader, Company Executive Officer, and Battalion Assistant S-4 in 2nd Battalion, 503rd Infantry Regiment in Vincenza, Italy.

Photo By Pfc. Matt Wrzesinski

Lt. Col. James O'Brien (center) oversees as Capt. La Fran D. Marks (left) relinquished command of Charlie Troop, 3rd Squadron, 187th Infantry Regiment, to Capt. Sean P. McGee (right) April 29. Shortly after being assigned to 3-187, Marks joined the battalion in Iraq and served as the Assistant Operations Officer. On 26 April 2004, Marks took command of Charlie Troop. Incoming Commander McGee is no stranger to the Rakkasans. McGee has served as the Assistant Operations Officer for 3-187 before taking command of Charlie Troop.



Photo By Pfc. Matt Wrzesinski

Lt. Col. Joey Wyte (center) oversees as Capt. David D. Johnson (left) relinquished command of Alpha Company, 81st BTB, 187th Infantry Regiment, to Capt. Stephen T. Lavalle (right) April 29. Before taking command of Alpha Company, Johnson served as the Brigade Engineer. Since arriving at the 101st airborne division Lavalle has served as an Engineer Operations Officer for the Division Engineer and as the Assistant S-3 for 81st BTB.



Around The Brigade

2ND BN CONVOY TRAINING



Photo by Pfc. Kenia Kraus

Spc. Paul Gray, Charlie Company, 2nd Battalion pulls security as soldiers behind him search a vehicle after their convoy took direct fire. Convoy training like this prepares soldiers for the rigorous demands of life in Iraq.

626th BTB Simulates Iraq



Photo by Spc. James Kever

Traveling through the virtual streets of Iraq, Pfc. Sammy Rivera, Charlie Company, 626th BSB, takes aim at an enemy combatant during a four vehicle convoy. The simulator puts soldiers through scenarios such as responding to enemy fire, avoiding IED's, and navigating through unfamiliar territory.

Chaplains Corner

Building Strong & Ready Families (BSRF) is a three day marriage enrichment retreat. This three day retreat develops those skills necessary for marriages to thrive even in the face of multiple deployments. Some of the topics include: The Gender Differences and Relationships, Personality types, Overcoming Destructive Communication habits and forgiveness. The first day is at Soldiers Chapel near 3rd BCT and begins at 9:30am and ends at 4pm. Childcare is provided at the chapel but due to limited space, alternate childcare is strongly encouraged. Two days and nights at Opryland Hotel in Nashville are provided free of charge with limited childcare available. Sixty couples from 1-187th Inf Bn, 2-187th Inf Bn, and 3-187th RSTA will train 19-22 May (Sunday am check out). In addition, seventy-one couples will train 2-5 June (Sunday am checkout). Be sure to contact your battalion chaplain or the 3 BCT Chaplain at 798-5566

Chaplain Doug Prentice
3rd BCT Chaplain

81st BTB Takes Fire

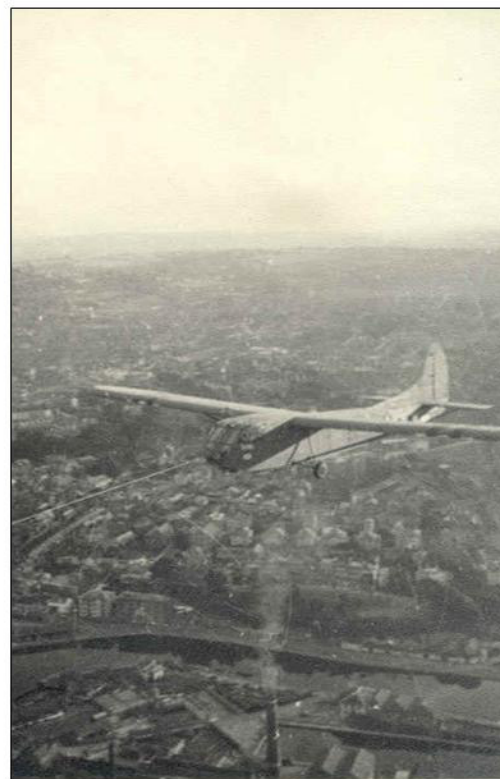


Photo by Pfc. Kenia Kraus

Soldiers of 81st BTB stand guard as their comrades pile into the back of the vehicle. The Soldiers stood guard after taking enemy fire during the Convoy Leadership Training Thursday. The objective was to certify leaders in convoy tactics such as reacting to fire while mounted and dismounted.

187 Historu

187th Glider Regiment



The 187th Infantry Regiment was constituted on 12 November 1942 at Camp Mackall, North Carolina. On 25 February 1943, the 187th was activated, designated a glider regiment, and assigned to the 11th Airborne Division. A two battalion regiment, 187th trained and prepared for combat with its men trained at the end of the war both as gliderists and parachutists. In May 1944, the Regiment deployed with the Division to the southwest Pacific debarking at Lae, New Guinea.

On November 18th, the entire 11th Airborne Division landed on Bito Beach on Leyte. Four days later the 11th relieved the 7th Infantry Division. Initially, the 187th under Colonel Harry D Hildebrand (picture left) were charged with guarding the rear installation around Bito Beach. However, in the ensuing days the Japanese mounted their only airborne operation against US forces in WW II an jumped on the San Pablo airstrip on Leyte. General Swing immediately ordered a counterattack and rushed the 187th forward from Bito Beach.



During the battle the 1st Battalion of the 187th captured the Japanese paratroopers flag which hangs today in the West Point Museum. Meanwhile, the 2nd Battalion of the 187th under the command of Lt Col Arthur H Wilson Jr reinforced the 511th. Two days after Christmas the 187th moved to attack the Japanese positions at Anonang on two steep parallel ridges. The second ridge became known as Purple Heart Hill because of the large contingent of glidermen killed and wounded while taking it. After two days of ferocious fighting the ridge was seized.

In January 1945, the 187th landed with the Division at Nasubu Bay, south of Manila to seize Tagaytay Ridge and to advance on Manila from the south. From January to April the 187th was in constant action, ranging from Nichols Field, Fort McKinley and Manila to Mount Macolod and Malepunyo.

In May, the Regiment moved into Lipa to refit, rebuild, and prepare for the Invasion of Japan. At this time, the 3rd Battalion was formed and the Regiment was redesignated a para-glider regiment. When the

war ended, the 187th was selected to spearhead the occupation of Japan and gained the distinction of being the first foreign round combat unit to enter Japan.

While serving as occupation forces, the 187th received the title "Rakkasan" from the Japanese which literally translated means "Falling Down Umbrella". In April 1949, the Rakkasans returned to the United States with the 11th Airborne Division and settled into then Camp Campbell, Kentucky. In early 1950, the Rakkasans participated in the largest peacetime airborne maneuver in history, "Operation Swarmer". The Performance of the Regiment during this maneuver was instrumental in the Regiment being selected to form an airborne regimental combat team to enter the Korean conflict.

Photos from www.pointvista.com

Article from www.ww2-airborne.us